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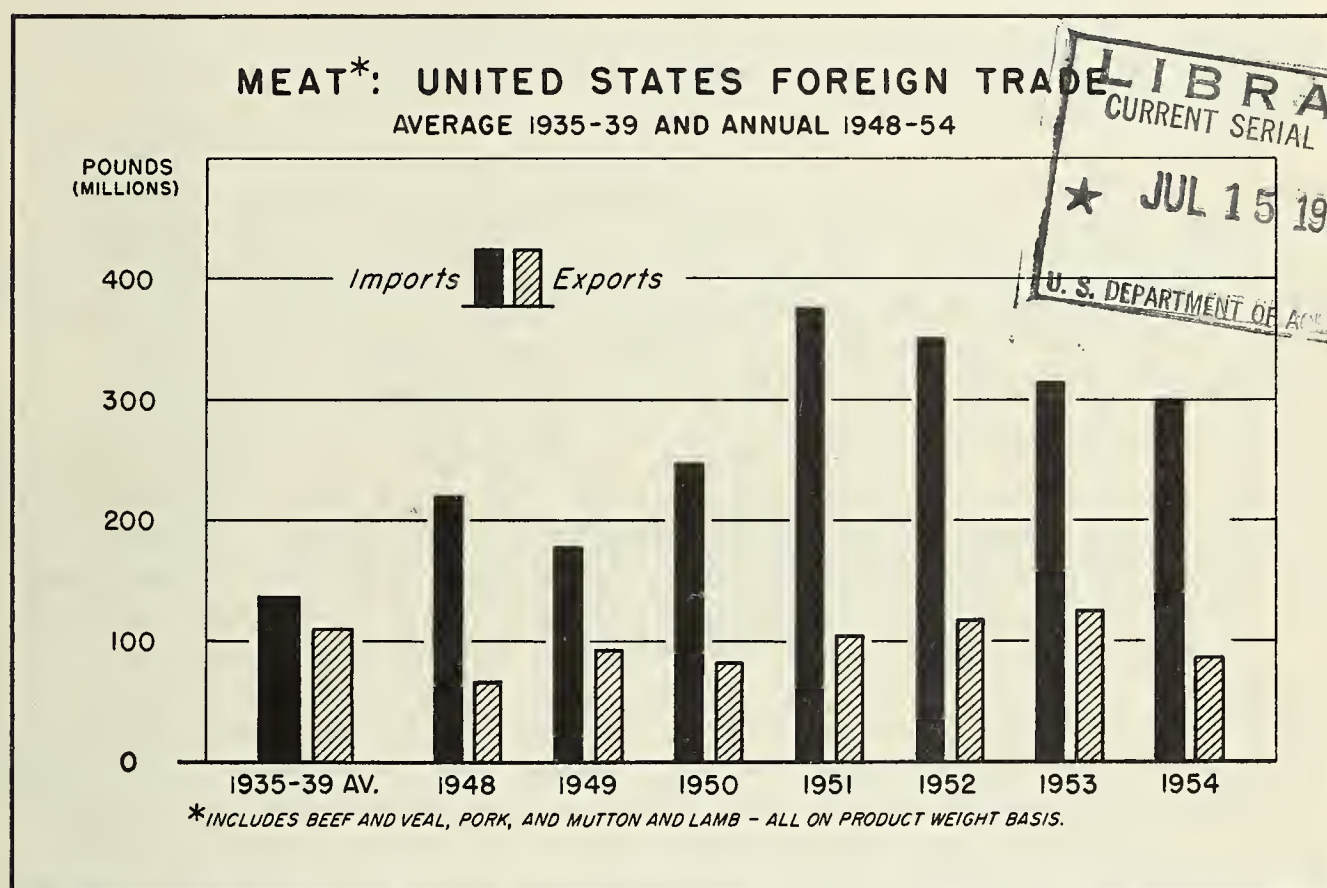
FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE IN MEAT 1949 - 1954



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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United States imports of meat declined slightly during 1954, with larger imports of pork not quite offsetting reduced imports of beef. Total meat imports amounted to 303 million pounds (product weight), compared with 312 million during 1953, and the record entry of 384 million pounds during 1951.

Exports of meat from the United States declined more than one-fifth during 1954 from the 1953 total of 127 million pounds (product weight). There was a substantial decline in exports of pork during the year, and beef exports were off moderately.

Smaller imports of beef largely reflect the beef supply situation in the United States. From 1951 to 1954 domestic beef production increased from 8.8 billion pounds to establish a new record total of almost 13 billion. Per capita consumption during this period rose from 55 pounds to 79 pounds. Prices of cattle and beef in the United States reached record high levels during 1951, but declined substantially during the following 2 years as domestic production of beef increased sharply. With the decline in beef prices there was much less incentive to import beef, and the imports have fallen off as a result of the larger supplies.

The largest part of the beef imported is canned; mostly canned corned beef from Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. No canned corned beef is produced in the United States in consumer-size cans. Domestic processors get more for beef suitable for such processing if sold as bulk, or loose corned beef, or if prepared in other ways.

Imports of pork continued at record high levels during 1954. The imports were principally fresh and frozen pork from Canada and canned hams from the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Canada, and West Germany.

Large imports of pork in part also reflect the pork supply situation in the United States. From 1951 to 1954 pork production in the United States declined from 11.5 billion pounds to 10 billion; and per capita consumption on the average went down from 71 pounds to 60 pounds. Pork output during early 1955 was materially greater than a year earlier, and total output for the year as a whole will be above 1954.

Exports of hams to the United States may continue to be large during 1955 despite the possibility of lower prices in the United States. Exports of pork from the principal exporting countries are either controlled by state trading monopolies or producer marketing boards. Under their export policies they are able to export to the highest priced markets available to them without strict regard to prevailing market prices both at home and abroad.

Exports of products from Denmark to the United States and Canada are eligible to certain export premiums which are equal to 8 percent of the dollars received from such transactions. The export premiums therefore amount to a subsidy on all exports from that country to dollar areas. Danish exports of pork to the United States are handled by the cooperative slaughterhouses under the Danish Bacon Factories Export Association. The cooperative slaughter plants also deliver pork to the United Kingdom under an annual agreement and these purchases are made by the Cattle and Meat Purchasing Office of the Government. The Government exercises a great deal of control over exports to all areas.

The Control Board for livestock and meat in the Netherlands supervises the quality and quantity of exports from that country. It negotiates an annual contract to deliver bacon to the United Kingdom. Profits and losses on the Anglo-Dutch bacon contract are absorbed by the Government's Agricultural Equalization Fund. The government has established a guaranteed producer price for hogs suitable for bacon production. A "pig fund" for price support is used for the benefit of pig breeders in general and works as a price stabilizer or to encourage or discourage bacon production as circumstances dictate.

Exports of foods from Poland are handled by a state trading agency. One firm in the United States has an exclusive importing arrangement for pork products. Each year a new contract is signed for the purchase of specific quantities of pork products, mostly canned hams, at specific prices.

Increased efforts to promote sales of German meat products in the United States and other parts of the world have been announced by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Germany has experienced difficulty in preparing meat specialties for export at competitive prices because of artificially high domestic production costs. In recent years the procedure was to process, under customs supervision, for export hams and shoulders from hogs imported from Poland and other countries. This procedure was replaced by the payment of export subsidies under the so-called "soft goods arrangement." On January 1, 1955, canned hams were removed from the "soft goods arrangement" and exports are now being subsidized from the proceeds of "skimming" imports of grains. If this procedure meets with opposition in international quarters, it is administratively possible to supply lower priced imported grain to domestic hog producers.

Beef exports from the United States to all countries during 1954 were below a year earlier, largely because of smaller exports to Greece and Western Germany, which had been financed under United States Government aid programs.

The smaller pork exports from the United States during 1954 largely resulted from smaller shipments of fatback to the Netherlands and Western Germany.

Restrictions on imports of United States pork products, because of the presence of Vesicular Exanthema, are sharply restricting exports. Canada, Venezuela, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, and British Honduras are among the markets for United States pork products which restrict imports from the United States for this reason. Vesicular Exanthema quarantines are now in effect for premises in parts of 6 States--California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island--and none of these areas are large hog producers. Hogs from the quarantine areas are slaughtered and processed in such a way that the pork products will not be carriers of the VE virus, either if eaten in the United States or exported. VE affects only hogs and is not transmissible to humans.

A summary of this edition appeared in the June 13, 1954 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

Prepared by Grover J. Sims and Dorothy Bloodgood.

UNITED STATES: Foreign trade in meat, 1949-1954

(Product weight basis)						
Item	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
<u>IMPORTS</u>						
Beef and veal:						
Fresh, chilled or frozen beef	76,627	61,753	86,714	71,971	26,692	7,520
Fresh, chilled or frozen veal	6,683	9,533	7,298	98	447	1,048
Canned beef	72,311	124,621	153,904	120,181	100,098	85,244
Pickled and cured beef	1,621	3,009	65,093	60,519	12,796	23,234
Boneless beef 1/	13,400	11,200	11,139	31,528	20,066	8,646
Total beef and veal	170,642	210,116	324,148	284,297	160,099	125,698
Pork:						
Fresh, chilled or frozen	593	3,774	9,833	3,185	36,651	44,746
Hams, shoulders and bacon 2/	2,029	26,657	37,622	57,193	106,106	112,574
Other pickled or salted	264	923	941	969	2,524	12,404
Sausage except fresh	3/	311	557	664	745	603
Total pork	2,886	31,665	48,953	62,011	146,026	170,327
Lamb and mutton:						
Fresh, chilled or frozen	3,656	3,393	6,736	6,156	3,123	2,067
Other canned meats or prepared of preserved meat: 4/	6,370	8,611	3,909	4,128	3,219	4,613
Total meat imports	183,554	253,785	383,746	356,592	312,467	302,697
<u>EXPORTS</u>						
Beef and veal:						
Fresh or frozen	4,168	3,015	1,770	3,077	14,898	13,015
Canned	3,584	2,144	2,084	1,297	10,743	6,287
Pickled or cured	11,852	11,360	7,753	10,360	13,090	14,522
Total beef and veal	19,604	16,519	11,607	14,734	38,731	33,824
Pork:						
Fresh or frozen	14,285	4,420	16,306	11,845	6,517	5,293
Hams and shoulders, cured or cooked	6,146	9,047	11,165	12,967	10,753	11,010
Bacon 5/	11,551	27,723	39,814	41,215	7,154	4,675
Other pork, pickled, salted or otherwise cured	20,515	12,243	10,023	24,862	50,685	27,538
Hams and shoulders, canned	3/	3/	3/	2,327	1,296	933
Other pork, canned	7,152	4,825	4,942	3,540	3,003	3,445
Total pork	59,649	58,258	82,250	96,756	79,408	52,894
Lamb and mutton: (except canned)	787	334	207	374	1,313	827
Sausage, bologna and frankfurters:						
Except canned	1,192	1,011	1,118	1,188	1,368	1,417
Canned	3,675	1,864	4,154	3,293	3,475	6,433
Sausage ingredients, cured, Excl. canned	2,401	1,464	439	6/	6/	6/
Meat and meat products, canned n.e.c.	6,652	3,959	2,947	1,329	2,270	4,116
Baby food, canned	3/	3/	3/	322	395	404
Total meat exports	93,960	83,409	102,729	117,996	126,960	99,895
Horsemeat (all kinds)	33,074	15,040	21,957	19,733	17,072	16,328

1/ Includes estimated amounts erroneously classified as other canned meats or prepared or preserved meat. 2/ Including canned.
 3/ Previously included in another category. 4/ Excludes estimated amounts of boneless beef which are included with beef and veal as noted in footnote 1. 5/ Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides. 6/ Not separately classified.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census. July 2, 1955.

BEUF AND VEAL: 1/ United States imports by country of origin,
1935-39 average, annual 1950-54

(Product weight basis)

Country	1935-39 average	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Canada	1,840	73,369	91,613	2,027	17,495	7,693
Mexico	--	---	46,352	72,391	24,953	18,104
Honduras	--	--	---	468	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	8,733	3,806	1,886	4,534	3,659
Ireland	1	426	9,795	15,921	5,632	3,118
Argentina	36,388	90,394	141,666	107,566	87,455	64,491
Brazil	9,513	8,756	5,729	3,164	73	1,106
Paraguay	2,869	5,520	424	2,370	244	14
Uruguay	36,108	22,760	18,652	16,898	16,862	24,340
Australia	65	101	396	2,305	322	1,802
New Zealand	959	--	76	58,813	2,419	1,121
Others	1,805	57	639	488	110	214
Total	89,548	210,116	324,148	284,297	160,099	125,692

1/ Includes estimated quantities of boneless beef included in "other meat"
Census classification 0032900 prior to 1954.

MUTTON & LAMB: United States imports by country of origin,
1935-39 average, annual 1950-54

(Product weight basis)

Country	1935-39 average	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Canada	10	2,762	2,714	1	9	75
Iceland	--	111	1,995	446	10	--
Ireland	--	--	272	301	1	--
Australia	4	518	1,481	5,400	3,015	1,094
New Zealand	16	2	274	8	88	886
Others	40	--	--	--	--	12
Total	70	3,393	6,736	6,156	3,123	2,067

Foreign Agricultural Service: Compiled from official records of the Bureau
of the Census.

PORK: United States imports by country of origin,
1935-39 average, annual 1950-54

(Product Weight basis)							
Country	1935-39 Average	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Canada	8,919	14,781	22,427	18,515	65,083	66,923	
Belgium	--	37	14	125	950	862	
Czechoslovakia	127	196	94	--	33	221	
Denmark	1,473	2,661	4,198	8,861	15,575	23,093	
Estonia	403	--	--	--	--	--	
France	7	18	49	70	199	16	
Germany 1/	596	--	22	3,657	13,066	15,609	
Hungary	2,049	--	--	--	--	--	
Ireland	240	189	31	67	81	98	
Italy	519	481	474	573	657	499	
Latvia	222	--	--	--	--	--	
Lithuania	1,443	--	--	--	--	--	
Netherlands	1,031	5,971	16,165	20,252	36,707	42,343	
Poland	24,223	7,025	5,144	9,366	13,409	20,305	
Rumania	752	--	--	--	--	--	
Sweden	80	55	187	238	66	151	
Switzerland	--	4	29	25	20	17	
United Kingdom	553	27	29	43	17	25	
Yugoslavia	69	--	--	--	--	--	
Argentina	902	1	--	--	--	1	
Brazil	201	--	--	--	--	--	
Others	274	219	90	219	163	164	
Total	44,083	31,665	48,953	62,011	146,026	170,327	

1/ Western Germany, effective January 1, 1952

Foreign Agricultural Service: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

BEEF: United States imports by country of origin,
average 1935-39, annual 1950-54
(Product weight basis)

Item and Country	Average: 1935-39:	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Beef, fresh, chilled or frozen						
Canada	1,683	52,495	74,437	1,202	15,734	3,465
Mexico	--	--	--	7,181	3,401	--
Honduras	--	--	--	311	--	--
Dominican Rep.	--	8,733	3,806	1,886	4,534	3,659
Ireland	1	426	8,195	9,256	886	2
Australia	60	99	248	1,531	230	287
New Zealand	925	--	28	50,598	1,884	106
Others	1,574	--	--	6	23	1
Total	4,243	61,753	86,714	71,971	26,692	7,520
Beef, boneless 1/						
Canada	--	11,200	9,500	600	1,200	3,053
Mexico	--	--	--	15,900	13,702	--
Honduras	--	--	--	157	--	--
Ireland	--	--	1,600	6,665	4,730	3,146
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	1,435
New Zealand	--	--	39	8,206	434	1,012
Total 1/	--	11,200	11,139	31,528	20,066	8,646
Veal, fresh, chilled or frozen						
Canada	34	9,531	7,289	69	418	1,045
New Zealand	33	--	9	9	18	3
Mexico	--	--	--	20	11	--
Others	86	2	--	--	--	--
Total	153	9,533	7,298	98	447	1,048
Beef, canned incl. corned						
Canada	3	158	118	43	50	7
Mexico	--	--	3,603	3,370	727	282
Argentina	36,340	88,539	130,384	94,344	83,105	59,691
Brazil	9,063	8,541	3,185	3,127	73	1,106
Paraguay	2,866	5,512	424	2,370	244	14
Uruguay	34,952	21,814	15,757	15,789	15,632	23,851
Australia	1	--	148	774	81	80
Others	101	57	285	364	186	213
Total	83,326	124,621	153,904	120,181	100,098	85,244
Beef and veal pickled & cured						
Canada	120	6	269	113	93	123
Mexico	--	--	47,749	45,920	7,112	17,822
Argentina	48	1,834	11,282	13,222	4,349	4,800
Brazil	450	215	2,544	37	--	--
Uruguay	1,156	946	2,895	1,109	1,229	489
Others	52	8	354	118	13	--
Total	1,826	3,009	65,093	60,519	12,796	23,234

1/ Includes estimated amounts erroneously classified as other canned meats or preserved or prepared meat prior to 1954.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

POBK: United States imports by country of origin,
average 1935-39, annual 1950-54

(Product weight basis)

Item and Country	Average:						
	1935-39:	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Pork, fresh,							
chilled or frozen							
Canada	7,224	3,756	9,466	2,993	36,587	44,667	
Dominican Rep.	-	-	-	85	11	2	
Lithuania	775	-	-	-	-	-	
Poland	351	-	-	-	-	-	
United Kingdom	296	-	-	-	-	-	
Sweden	66	-	-	-	-	-	
Latvia	57	-	-	-	-	-	
Others	92	18	67	107	53	77	
Total	8,861	3,774	9,833	3,185	36,651	44,746	
Hams, shoulders and							
bacon							
Canada	1,113	10,271	11,970	14,837	26,393	17,918	
Belgium	-	37	14	125	950	819	
Czechoslovakia	122	196	94	-	33	216	
Denmark	1,298	2,677	4,170	8,819	15,425	22,488	
Estonia	398	-	-	-	-	-	
France	-	18	44	65	199	12	
Germany 1/	445	-	22	3,645	13,061	15,455	
Hungary	1,878	-	-	-	-	-	
Ireland	238	189	31	67	81	94	
Italy	54	32	7	17	105	22	
Latvia	163	-	-	-	-	-	
Lithuania	626	-	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	912	5,946	15,896	19,939	36,329	36,805	
Poland	22,628	7,042	5,125	9,366	13,409	18,496	
Rumania	693	-	-	-	-	-	
Sweden	12	55	186	235	66	151	
Switzerland	-	2	21	22	20	13	
United Kingdom	250	25	29	43	17	25	
Argentina	719	-	-	-	2/	-	
Brazil	130	-	-	-	-	-	
Others	196	167	13	13	18	60	
Total	31,875	26,657	37,622	57,193	106,106	112,574	

PORK: United States imports by country of origin,
average 1935-39, annual 1950-54
(Continued)

(Product weight basis)

Item and Country	Average:						
	1935-39:	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Other pork, pickled or salted							
Canada	582	718	613	653	2,051	4,279	
Denmark	173	-	25	29	141	591	
Germany 1/	151	-	-	-	5	130	
Hungary	171	-	-	-	-	-	
Italy	465	180	8	26	8	31	
Netherlands	119	20	262	241	298	5,503	
Poland	1,244	-	19	-	-	1,809	
Rumania	59	-	-	-	-	-	
Argentina	183	-	-	-	-	1	
Brazil	71	-	-	-	-	-	
Others	129	5	14	20	21	60	
Total	3,347	923	941	969	2,524	12,404	
Sausage, except fresh 3/							
Canada	-	36	78	32	52	59	
Denmark	-	-	3	13	9	14	
Italy	-	269	459	530	544	446	
Netherlands	-	5	7	72	80	35	
Others	-	1	10	17	60	49	
Total	3/	311	557	664	745	603	

1/ Western Germany beginning Jan. 1, 1952. 2/ Less than 500 lbs. 3/ Prior to May 30, 1950 included with other pork, pickled or salted.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

ALL MEATS: United States exports to specified countries, by types
average 1935-39, annual 1950-54

(Product weight basis)						
Country & item	Average: 1935-39:	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
<u>Canada 1/</u>						
Beef and veal	5,944	10,448	8,287	9,318	11,712	12,187
Pork, excl. lard	12,598	4,861	21,882	4,454	102	97
Mutton and lamb	28	8	25	53	681	613
Other 2/	259	317	869	811	738	569
Total	18,829	15,634	31,063	14,636	13,233	13,466
<u>Mexico</u>						
Beef and veal	91	31	46	109	213	98
Pork, excl. lard	281	140	222	1,340	1,986	1,311
Mutton and lamb	19	1	-	1	47	4
Other 2/	131	142	200	236	403	309
Total	522	314	468	1,686	2,649	1,722
<u>Cuba</u>						
Beef and Veal	16	29	53	1,211	63	97
Pork, excl. lard	5,450	22,283	26,930	34,872	22,387	19,577
Mutton and lamb	16	13	12	17	30	35
Other 2/	132	879	267	301	312	298
Total	5,614	23,204	27,262	36,401	22,792	20,007
<u>Venezuela</u>						
Beef and veal	20	926	156	590	646	564
Pork, excl. lard	1,045	4,548	3,139	3,483	1,772	1,774
Mutton and lamb	1	119	12	2	4	9
Other 2/	346	1,720	1,841	1,965	1,384	1,195
Total	1,412	7,313	5,148	6,040	3,806	3,542
Total 4 countries	26,377	46,465	63,941	58,763	42,480	38,737

1/ Includes Newfoundland. 2/ Includes sausage, fresh and canned, sausage ingredients, cured and other canned meats, N.e.c.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.